

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 through 5 (canceled)

Claim 6. (original) A reversible transmission for a lawn mower comprising:

a housing;

an input shaft and an output shaft rotatably supported in said housing;

an operator controlled shift mechanism having a forward position and a reverse position;

and

a solenoid connected to said housing and having a plunger, said plunger having an extended position wherein movement of said shift mechanism into its said reverse position is blocked by said plunger, and a retracted position wherein movement of said shift mechanism into its said reverse position is not blocked by said plunger.

Claim 7. (original) The transmission of Claim 6, wherein said transmission is a transaxle having a transaxle casing, and said output shaft is an axle rotatably supported by said transaxle casing.

Claim 8. (original) The transmission of Claim 6, wherein said transmission is a manual shift transmission, said shift mechanism abuts said plunger when said plunger is in its said extended position and said shift mechanism is being moved toward its said reverse position, and said shift mechanism does not abut said plunger when said plunger is in its said retracted position or said shift mechanism is being moved toward its said forward position.

Claim 9. (original) The transmission of Claim 6, wherein said transmission is a hydrostatic transmission, said shift mechanism abuts said plunger when said plunger is in its said extended position and said shift mechanism is being moved toward its said reverse position, and said shift mechanism does not abut said plunger when said plunger is in its said retracted position or said shift mechanism is being shifted into its said forward position.

Claim 10. (original) A reverse shift lockout system for a lawn mower comprising:

an engine;

a transmission having a selectively entered reverse condition and a selectively entered forward condition, said transmission being driven by said engine;

an electrical source;

a mower deck assembly selectively engaged with said engine;

a switch in electrical communication with said electrical source and said mower deck assembly, said switch being in a first position when said mower deck assembly is engaged and in a second position when said mower deck assembly is not engaged; and

means in communication with said switch for preventing said transmission from entering its reverse condition when said switch is in its said first position and permitting said transmission to enter its reverse condition when said switch is in its said second position.

Claim 11. (original) A method of preventing an operator from placing a mower in reverse when its mower deck is operating, comprising:

extending the plunger of a solenoid in response to the mower deck being engaged;

blocking movement of a transmission shift mechanism into reverse with the extended solenoid plunger, whereby the mower cannot be placed in reverse with the mower deck being engaged;

retracting the solenoid plunger in response to the mower deck being disengaged, whereby the mower may be placed in reverse.

Claim 12. (original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

energizing the solenoid prior to extending the plunger; and

de-energizing the solenoid prior to retracting the plunger.

Claims 13 and 14 (canceled)

Claim 15. (original) A reversible transmission for a lawn mower having a selectively engaged mower deck comprising:

a housing;

an input shaft and an output shaft rotatably supported in said housing;

an operator controlled shift mechanism having a forward position and a reverse position;

and

means for preventing said transmission from being shifted into reverse in response to the mower deck being engaged.

Claim 16. (original) The transmission of Claim 15, wherein said means for preventing includes a solenoid having a plunger, said plunger having an extended position wherein movement of said shift mechanism into its reverse position is blocked by said plunger, said plunger having a retracted position wherein movement of said shift mechanism into its reverse position is not blocked by said plunger.

Claim 17. (original) The transmission of Claim 16, wherein said transmission is a manual shift transmission, said shift mechanism abuts said plunger when said plunger is in its said extended position and said shift mechanism is being moved toward its said reverse position, and said shift mechanism does not abut said plunger when said plunger is in its said retracted position or said shift mechanism is being moved toward its said forward position.

Claim 18. (original) The transmission of Claim 16, wherein said transmission is a hydrostatic transmission, said shift mechanism abuts said plunger when said plunger is in its said extended position and said shift mechanism is being moved toward its said reverse position, and said shift mechanism does not abut said plunger when said plunger is in its said retracted position or said shift mechanism is being moved toward its said forward position.

Claim 19. (original) The transmission of Claim 15, wherein said transmission is a

transaxle having a transaxle casing, said output shaft is an axle rotatably supported in said transaxle casing.

Respectfully submitted,

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